

TREASURE

OUR

Louisiana

COASTS

and

ESTUARIES

LOUISIANA'S EXPANSIVE COASTAL WETLANDS AND ESTUARIES ARE ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST PRODUCTIVE ECOSYSTEMS. TO ENSURE THAT THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT IS HEALTHY FOR GENERATIONS, LOUISIANA MUST ARREST THE LOSS AND DEGRADATION OF IMPORTANT FISHERY HABITATS, SUCH AS WETLANDS. ON THE OTHER HAND, OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION, SEAFOOD PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM ARE IMPORTANT TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY. THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE OF THESE COASTAL AREAS. THIS LAW, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), RECOGNIZES A NATIONAL INTEREST IN OUR COASTAL AND OCEAN AREAS. IT ALLOWS EACH STATE AND TERRITORY, NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO BALANCE CONSERVATION OF THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT WITH HUMAN USES THAT DEPEND ON COASTAL RESOURCES.

miles of coastline
7,721

coastal population in 2000
2,170,717

fy03 czma core (section 306)
funding
\$2,000,000

fy03 czma enhancements
(section 309) funding
\$540,000

fy03 coastal nonpoint
implementation
\$325,000

THE CZMA IN LOUISIANA

The CZMA establishes programs to balance the use and protection of America's coasts. The Coastal Management Program gives states a flexible framework to address a broad range of community development, economic, and natural resource issues at the state and local level.

Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program

Approved: 1980

Lead Agency: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

To resolve conflicts over local uses of the coast, the Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program implements a coastal permitting system, and works closely with its 19 coastal parishes to develop and implement local programs. Over the past several years, the number of coastal parishes with approved programs has continued to grow.



The Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program recently introduced two innovations that improve constituent services:

- *The Permit Information Center, located in Lafourche Parish, assists prospective applicants in obtaining relevant state, federal, and local coastal and wetlands permits. At the center, a prospective applicant can meet with a permitting expert for assistance in preparing the necessary applications.*
- *A web-based coastal use permit tracking system that allows permit analysts and the general public to view data on the location of permitted coastal projects, the types and acreage of habitat affected, and the benefits gained through mitigation.*

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Coastal Louisiana suffers from frequent oil and chemical spills that harm coastal resources. In collaboration with NOAA and other state and federal trustee agencies, the Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program has developed regional restoration plans, backed by a Geographic Information System-based tracking system, to expedite the restoration of the natural resources affected by these spills. Rather than developing plans for single sites, the regional restoration plans identify potential restoration sites around the coast that provide a clear ecological relationship between the natural resource damages and the actual restoration project.

The Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Program is working with state and federal agencies and coastal parishes to revise the state's wetland mitigation regulations. Mitigation standards, which govern projects permitted by state and local authorities, will be updated to reflect improved science and result in enhanced wetland protection.